

California M E D I C I N E

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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VOL. 74

JUNE 1951

No. 6

Effective Treatment of Socialistic Hypertension

DONALD CASS, M.D., *Los Angeles*

A YEAR ago Dr. R. Stanley Kneeshaw, then president of the California Medical Association, described Uncle Sam as a sick man. I want to supplement his findings and report to you on the state of the patient.

Uncle Sam is still a sick man but his condition has improved considerably in the past year. His disease has been conclusively diagnosed as socialistic hypertension and it is comforting to all of us to know that he has improved and shows signs of further gains. The prognosis is excellent.

The reason for the improvement is that scientific medicine has been called into the case, to replace the quackery of the bureaucratic planners who were dabbling in something beyond the realm of their knowledge. Doctor M.D. has awakened to the fact that he must bend his best efforts to cure a deteriorating condition which would otherwise carry away the patient and all that surrounds him.

To state the case bluntly, the medical profession has at last been aroused to recognition that it must engage in the economics and the politics of our population. No longer can medicine confine its activities to the sickroom or the laboratory; as physicians we must take an active part in the social and the political life of our country. We must roll up our sleeves and get into the political arena if our profession is to survive as a vibrant, factual scientific pursuit.

The alternative is the enslavement of physicians by government with the certain leveling-off to the lowest common denominator. If we want to maintain high standards of medical practice, we must put our efforts into economic and political pursuits as well as into the scientific endeavors for which we have been especially trained.

During the past year it has been my privilege to travel several thousand miles about the state of California, visiting with county medical societies, woman's auxiliaries and other groups. The object of these many meetings was to bring home to the physicians of California the need for each to apply himself to the betterment of public relations for the entire profession. We tried to put each physician into his own proper sphere by pointing out that the public relations of each physician are, in sum total, the public relations of the profession. I hope that at least a portion of the profession has given some thought to this problem as a result of those visits.

It was most heartening to note, in traveling around the state, that many of the county medical society members are young men. The membership of our Association has doubled in the last ten years and has increased almost 75 per cent in the last seven years. New medical blood has been coming to our state. Many of the new physicians are young men who served their country during the recent war and determined to settle here after their active duty was finished.

Not only are many of these new physicians in the younger age brackets, they are also in the high intelligence brackets—the product of a strict system of medical education which selects only the cream of the crop for our modern physicians.

When I was a medical student, about half the applicants for medical schools were accepted. Today there are seven, eight, ten applicants for every opening in medical schools, and the deans and faculty committees wisely choose those applicants who exhibit the highest mental ability along with the other attributes we generally look for in a good physician.

We have need of this youth and this intelligence. We must put it to work in fighting the miasma of

Address of the President, California Medical Association, at the 80th Annual Session, Los Angeles, May 13-16, 1951.

California MEDICINE

OWNED AND PUBLISHED BY THE CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
450 SUTTER, SAN FRANCISCO 8 PHONE DOUGLAS 2-0062

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EDITORIAL

The 1951 Annual Session

On May 16 the California Medical Association concluded its 1951 Annual Session in Los Angeles, a meeting which was well attended—the registration exceeded 3,600—and from all appearances was most successful. Even the weather gave visitors reason to praise and residents occasion for pride. Reports indicate that members of the Woman's Auxiliary—the ladies, bless 'em—who turned out in force, managed to do a great deal of work yet find time for enjoyment too. Five guest speakers, including one from London, added immeasurably to the scientific tone of the meeting and contributed statements which drew widespread attention from the press. The newspapermen who reported the meeting were of a high order of their profession, and relations with them were pleasant. Technical exhibits were considered valuably informative to physicians at a time when they had leisure to look and listen.

If fault is to be found with the scientific side of the session it lies in the fact that the scientific sections have grown so fast in both size and interest that the attending members tend to overflow the available meeting rooms. This problem is increasing with the growth in size of the Association without corresponding growth in meeting rooms to accommodate the general and sectional meetings. The cooperation of the scientific sections in limiting the number of their meetings so as to make larger rooms available for all will go a long way toward solving this problem. Another suggestion which has been made is that other organizations hold their meetings a day in advance of the opening of the C.M.A. Annual Session or the day after it closes. An outstanding contribution to the smoothness of the Annual Session was the scheduling of the House of Delegates meetings so that they did not run concurrently with meetings of scientific sections.

On the business side, the House of Delegates met on three successive days, adopted a new Constitution and By-Laws with a minimum of friction or

discussion, elected new officers and ruled on the numerous resolutions presented by members of the House.

Chosen unanimously as President-Elect was Doctor Lewis A. Alesen of Los Angeles, a surgeon who has served as Speaker of the House of Delegates for the past five years and as a Delegate to the American Medical Association since 1949. He will follow in the footsteps of Doctor H. Gordon MacLean of Oakland, who assumed office as President at the close of the session.

For Speaker of the House of Delegates, Doctor Donald Charnock of Los Angeles was unanimously chosen to move up from his former post as Vice-Speaker. This latter position went to Doctor Henry A. Randel of Fresno on a ballot vote.

Under the new Constitution adopted at this session, the Delegates from Councilor Districts elect their own members of the Council, subject only to a challenge in the House of Delegates. The eleven Councilor Districts proceeded to their own selections, renaming seven of the former nine District Councilors and adding Doctors H. Clifford Loos and J. Philip Sampson of Los Angeles County and A. A. Morrison of Ventura County as District Councilors. Doctor Francis E. West, former Councilor-at-Large, was named District Councilor from San Diego County and Doctor A. E. Varden of San Bernardino was elected as Councilor-at-Large. Other incumbents were reelected. Doctor Albert C. Daniels was reappointed as Secretary-Treasurer and Doctor Dwight L. Wilbur as Editor.

Thus the California Medical Association starts off its new year with a Council two members larger than formerly, with some new faces at the official table and with a vast enthusiasm in all departments. New blood, new ideas and new energy should carry the Association through to a new high in accomplishment.

CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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NOTICES AND REPORTS

New Constitution, New By-Laws, New Officers

Adoption of a new Constitution and By-Laws and election of officers, councilors, and delegates to the American Medical Association were among actions taken by the House of Delegates of the California Medical Association at its 1951 Annual Session in Los Angeles last month.

Although amended in particular, the new Constitution and By-Laws are essentially the same as those proposed at the 1950 meeting and previously published in CALIFORNIA MEDICINE. (The document in the form in which it was passed will be published in full later.)

New Officers

Dr. H. Gordon MacLean of Oakland was installed as President of the Association and the following officers were elected:

President-elect—Dr. Lewis A. Alesen, Los Angeles.

Speaker of the House of Delegates—Dr. Donald A. Charnock, Los Angeles.

Vice-Speaker of the House of Delegates — Dr. Henry A. Randel, Fresno.

District Councilors, Councilors-at-Large

Under the new Constitution there are eleven councilor districts, and the district councilors are elected by the delegates from the respective districts. As previously, there are six councilors-at-large, elected by the House of Delegates. District councilors and councilors-at-large elected under the new Constitution are:

<i>District</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>
First—Dr. Francis E. West, San Diego.....	1952
Second—Dr. John D. Ball, Santa Ana.....	1953
Third—Dr. H. Clifford Loos, Los Angeles	1954
Fourth—Dr. J. Philip Sampson, Santa Monica	1952

Fifth—Dr. A. A. Morrison, Ventura.....	1953
Sixth—Dr. Neil J. Dau, Fresno.....	1954
Seventh—Dr. Hartzell H. Ray, San Mateo.....	1952
Eighth—Dr. M. Laurence Montgomery, San Francisco	1953
Ninth—Dr. Donald D. Lum, Alameda.....	1954
Tenth—Dr. John W. Green, Vallejo.....	1952
Eleventh—Dr. Wayne E. Pollock, Sacramento	1953

Councilors-at-large: Dr. Benjamin Frees, Los Angeles (1952); Dr. C. V. Thompson, Lodi (1952); Dr. Sidney J. Shipman, San Francisco (1953); Dr. Wilbur Bailey, Los Angeles (1953); Dr. A. E. Varden, San Bernardino (1954); Dr. Ivan C. Heron, San Francisco (1954).

The Council reappointed Dr. Albert C. Daniels, Secretary of the Association, and Dr. Dwight L. Wilbur, Editor.

Delegates to A.M.A.

Five delegates to the American Medical Association whose terms were expiring were reelected. They are: Dr. Robertson Ward, San Francisco; Dr. Sam J. McClendon, San Diego; Dr. Eugene F. Hoffman, Los Angeles; Dr. John W. Green, Vallejo; and Dr. Lewis A. Alesen, Los Angeles. Dr. Henry Gibbons III, San Francisco, was elected alternate for Dr. Ward, succeeding Dr. Anthony B. Diepenbrock, and Dr. A. E. Moore, San Diego, alternate for Dr. McClendon, succeeding Dr. Walter Cherry. Alternates for the other three delegates were reelected — Dr. Frederic S. Ewens alternate for Dr. Hoffman, Dr. Frank A. MacDonald for Dr. Green, and Dr. John Ball for Dr. Alesen.

C.M.A. Dues

California Medical Association dues for the calendar year 1952 were set at \$40 per member.

CALIFORNIA MEDICINE

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KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS USED

(Or.)—Original Article

(Ed.)—Editorial

(CMA)—California Medical Association

(CR)—Case Report

(I)—Information

(MJ)—Medical Jurisprudence

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